Hike in Subscription rates of C.G.H.S. Beneficiaries

2665. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subscription rates for the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries have been increased enormously;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons as to why such a steep hike in the rates of subscription has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The rates of CGHS subscription have been enhanced with effect from 1.5.98 on the recommendation of the 5th Central Pay Commission, as indicated below:

Pay Range (Rupees per month)	Subcription (Rupees per month)
Upto Rs. 3,000	15
Rs. 3,001 to 6,000	40
Rs. 6,001 to 10,000	70
Rs. 10,001 to 15,000	100
Rs. 15,001 and above	150

Keeping in view the revised pay scales of the Government servants, the enhanced CGHS subscription is not high.

Medical Colleges at Rajkot, Bhuj, Bhavnagar and Surenderanagar

2666. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening medical collages at Rajkot, Bhuj, Bhavnagar and Surendranagar in Gujarat State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has also sent proposals in this regard; and

(c) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) On the proposals submitted by the Government of Gujarat, permission of the Central Government has already been accorded under Section 10(A) of IMC Act in 1995 for the establishment of two new medical colleges in the State, one at Rajkot and another at Bhavnagar. Further, a proposal was also received from Saurashtra Medical Centre, Surendarnagar for establishment of a new medical college at Surendarnagar. The proposal was found incomplete in terms of qualifying criteria and was returned to the applicant on 16.6.98. No formal proposal has been received either from State Government or private Society/Trust for establishment of a new medical college at Bhuj.

Iodised Salt

2667. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the advent of iodised salt as a part of the campaign for prevention of goitra and other diseases arising from lack of iodine supply as an essential ingredient for human nutrition, a large number of small producers of salt have been thrown out of employment;

(b) if so, the total number of persons traditionally engaged in production of salt on sea shores who have been thrown out of job; and

(c) whether any schemes have been drawn out and implemented for providing alternative gainful employment in salt factories or otherwise; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir. With the advent of iodised salt as a part of the campaign for